

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAB-01 SSM-03 (ISO) W

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P R 122313Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9415

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1214

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, XK, SM, CS, IS, EG, US, NUT

SUBJECT: ISRAEL: FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS NICARAGUA

SUMMARY: ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON PAID A SURPRISE OVERNIGHT VISIT TO NICARAGUA MARCH 10-11 AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH NICARAGUA LEADERS. ISRAEL PLEDGED TO CONTINUE ITS SMALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO NICARAGUA AND NICARAGUA REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. END SUMMARY

1. ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER IGAL ALLON DEPARTED MARCH 11 AFTER A 24 HOUR VISIT IN NICARAGUA. ALLON'S VISIT, FOLLOWING A LONGER STAY IN COSTA RICA, WAS NOT ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AND THE MEDIA WAS VISIBLY SURPRISED BY HIS ARRIVAL.

2. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE UPON ARRIVING, ALLON SAID THAT HIS VISIT TO NICARAGUA GREW OUT OF THE FRIENDSHIP THAT ISRAEL HAD WITH NICARAGUA AND THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA AND THAT HIS TRIP TO
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CENTRAL AMERICA HAD THE OBJECT OF STRENGTHENING THOSE TIES. HE

SAID THAT HE HAD COME AT THE EXPRESS INVITATION OF THE NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER. ALLON STATED THAT DURING HIS VISIT HE WOULD DISCUSS WAYS TO STRENGTHEN ISRAELI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA (THERE ARE SIX ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS CURRENTLY HERE) AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

3. ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD'S VICTORY IN THE FLORIDA PRIMARIES WAS VIEWED FAVORABLY BY ISRAEL, HE DENIED THAT ISRAEL HAD ANY PARTISAN POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN THE U.S. SINCE IT ENJOYED THE FRIENDSHIP OF BOTH U.S. POLITICAL PARTIES. ALLON ALSO STATED THAT ISRAEL WAS CONCERNED BY THE LARGE-SCALE ARMS FLOW TO ITS HOSTILE NEIGHBORS AND HOPED THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT GIVE ARMS TO EGYPT UNTIL A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN REGION WAS ACHIEVED.

4. DURING HIS SHORT STAY HERE, ALLON MET TWICE EACH WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALEJANDRO MONTIEL, AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. BEFORE DEPARTING HE PROMISED THAT ISRAEL WOULD CONTINUE ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA.

5. IN HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT, FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL SPOKE OF THE ADMIRATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. HE SAID HIS COUNTRY SUPPORTED ISRAEL'S STRUGGLE IN FAVOR OF ITS PRINCIPLES AND A STABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. "ALTHOUGH THE ADVANCES THUS FAR REALIZED ARE PARTIAL AND LIMITED, WE HOLD THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE FUTURE HOLDS A SOLUTION WHICH WILL ALLOW ISRAEL TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. NICARAGUA IS DISPOSED TO GIVE ITS COOPERATION IN FINDING SUCH A SOLUTION", ADDED MONTIEL.

6. COMMENT: NICARAGUA REMAINS ONE OF ISRAEL'S HARD-CORE SUPPORTERS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ALLON'S VISIT SEEMED TO STRENGTHEN THAT TIE AS WITNESSED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S FULSOME STATEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, THE VISIT WAS PLAYED IN SOMEWHAT LOWER KEY BY THE GON THAN IT COULD HAVE BEEN AS WITNESSED BY THE LACK OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY

PRESIDENT SOMOZA.

7. NICARAGUA HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT MIFFED IN RECENT YEARS BY
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ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO ESTABLISH A RESIDENT EMBASSY HERE DESPITE NICARAGUA'S CONSISTENT SUPPORT. PRESUMABLY THE TOPIC WAS BROUGHT UP IN THE DISCUSSIONS. THE ALLON VISIT ADMIRABLY SUITED SOMOZA'S OWN INTENTIONS TO EXPLOIT HIS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AS HE SEEKS TO IMPROVE HIS IMAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.
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